(c) The Government proposes to sign similar agreement with other countries which have significant number of Indian workers.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Whenever, any case relating to payment of compensation in respect of any emigrant comes to the notice of the Ministry, the matter is taken up immediately with the Indian Embassy/ Mission concerned, who in turn takes up the matter with the foreign employer for payment of suitable compensation. During 2006-07, out of the 19 compensation related cases taken up by the Ministry, compensation has been paid in four cases.

The Government has also strengthened the emigration division of the Ministry to process such cases speedily as and when they are received.

The labour agreement signed between India and some of the labour receiving countries also take care of such matters.

Amendment in Anti-Dowry Law

†3876. SHRI MAKENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Non-Resident Indians have made a demand to Government with regard to making an amendment in the Anti-Dowry Law; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) A couple of representations have been received against alleged misuse of Section 498-A of the Indian Penal Code and based on the comments of National Commission for Women and Crime Against Women Cell, Delhi Police, the Government is of the view that no dilution of the provisions relating to dowry is advisable considering the continuing violence against women and their subordination.

Rutgers University of America

†3877. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that due to interest of the students of the Rutgers University of America, the University has planned to introduce courses on Hinduism; and

(b) whether Government would endeavour to ensure that those courses are of requisite level and are not insulting for the Indians?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) As per information available with the Ministry, the Rutgers University has decided to introduce a Summer Programme on Hindu Studies starting this year. The Programme offers courses covering different elements and approaches to Hindu Philosophy and Culture, including courses on Hinduism through its narrative Tradition; Hindu Rituals, Festivals and Symbols; Hindu Philosophy; and Hinduism and Modernity. Members of the Advisory Council of the Programme and faculty members who will be teaching the courses are all highly qualified and eminent people, mostly of Indian origin. The curriculum for the Programme has been prepared by Professor Edwin Bryant at the Department of Religion in Rutgers University in consultation with teachers from other institutions. Prof. Bryant has several publications on Hindu Philosophy to his credit.

Lucrative plan for overseas Indians

3878. SHRI SURENDRALATH: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have drawn up lucrative plans for overseas Indians including establishment of a university;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether these plans are going to be beneficial for the country and to NRIs as well; and

(d) if so, in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) (i) Government has launched Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme in which eligible Overseas Indians are issued an OCI Registration Booklet and a life-long multiple entry, multi-purpose visa sticker. OCIs are also granted parity with Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in the economic, financial and educational fields; Government is also